

**March 2008**

**Roosevelt County FSA Office**  
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**County Committee Members**

Loren Schledewitz  
Ted Toavs  
Mary Nesbit

**FSA Office Personnel**

Carol Y. Ritter-Fellman, CED  
Julie Williams, Chief PT  
Darcia Larsen, PT  
Dale Friedrich, PT  
Julane Poland, PT  
Judy Grimsrud, PT  
Jill Davidson, PT  
Stacy Buckley, Loan Manager

**Dates to Remember:**

**Late January/Early February** –  
1099 –G's mailed from Kansas  
City

**March 15** – Final date to request  
loan or LDP on crop year 2008  
wool or mohair

**March 17** – NAP sales closing  
date for all crops except Value  
Loss crops and Honey

**March 31** – Final loan/LDP  
availability date for barley, canola,  
crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats,  
rapeseed, wheat and sesame  
seed harvested in 2007

**April 1** – Deadline to pull cattle off  
of NAP acres intended for grass  
seed

**May 1** – Deadline to pull cattle off  
of NAP acres intended for forage

**June 2** – Final loan/LDP  
availability date for corn, dry peas,  
grain sorghum, lentils, mustard,  
safflower, soybeans, small  
chickpeas, and sunflowers  
harvested in 2007

# Roosevelt County FSA News

## **Change in Farming Operation or Address**

Producers are reminded to notify this office of changes occurring in their farming operations. Changes in address, bank accounts, and bank routing numbers need to be reported. Land sales that occur and land that is gained or lost needs to be reported. Share changes that occur in corporations and member changes made in joint ventures or partnerships need to be reported. This is vital to assist our office in keeping up-to-date records.

We are finding many producers are doing estate planning and have changed the ownership of land from an individual(s) to a trust. This is an entity change and we need to be informed when such an action occurs as this will affect program eligibility. If ownership of land is transferred to a trust we will need a copy of the legal document showing the ownership change as well as a copy of the trust papers.

## **Planting Fruits and Vegetables or Wild Rice on Base Acres**

Planting fruits, vegetables, or wild rice on base acres may adversely affect program benefits. Producers who wish to plant a fruit or vegetable should contact their local FSA Office before planting or leasing land for production of fruits, vegetables or wild rice. Prevention of a possible violation of program provisions, payment reductions, severe penalties and acreage reporting needs to be discussed. Any type of dry edible beans, such as garbanzo or kabuli, are considered a vegetable.

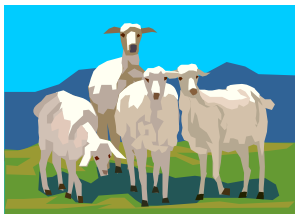


**2008 LDP Application Reminder to Wool and Mohair Producers**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 was signed by the President on December 26, 2007. This Act authorizes MAL (loan) and LDP programs for 2008 crops of graded and ungraded wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts through March 15, 2008.

**County offices can accept and process 2008 crop wool, mohair, and unshorn pelt MAL and LDP requests through March 15, 2008.** Because March 15, 2008, falls on a Saturday, 2008 crop wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts requests must be postmarked or fax date stamped on or before March 15, 2008. **Beneficial Interest Exception:** If wool, mohair, and unshorn pelt producers have lost beneficial interest before requesting LDP payment, County Offices shall use the LDP rate in effect on the date beneficial interest was considered lost.

**Note:** The 2008 crop year wool and mohair loan rates will remain unchanged from the 2007 crop loan rates.



Currently, accepting 2008 crop year MAL and LDP requests for commodities other than wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts is prohibited.

**Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)  
Deadline is March 17, 2008**

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of Non-insurable crops when low yields occur as a result of natural disaster. Eligible producers must pay an administrative service fee of \$100 per crop per administrative county or \$300 per producer per county, not to exceed \$900 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Service fees may be waived for limited-resource producers. Payment of a service fee does not guarantee coverage as there are many eligibility requirements that must be met. **The Application Closing Date for all crops except value loss and honey is March 17, 2008.**

**NAP Pull Off Dates**

Each FSA County Committee determines the date when livestock must be removed from NAP forage acres each spring. The date determined in Roosevelt County is May 1, 2008. The pull off date for crops intended for grass seed is April 1 in all counties.

Area producers that participate in NAP are reminded to submit 2007 production records for crops covered under the NAP program. These records shall be submitted no later than July 15, 2008.

**Deadlines for Crop Year 2007****Loans and LDP's**

The final availability date for loans and LDP's for the 2007 crop year for wheat, barley, oats, canola, and flax is March 31, 2008. The final availability date for corn, dry peas, lentils, mustard, safflower, small chickpeas, soybeans, and sunflower is May 31, 2008.

**CRP Managed Grazing Periods for Crop Year 2008**

The Montana State FSA Committee has established two 60-day grazing periods for managed grazing that may occur on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres during 2008.

Spring managed grazing may occur March 15<sup>th</sup> through May 14<sup>th</sup>. Summer managed grazing may occur July 16<sup>th</sup> through September 13<sup>th</sup>. It is important to note that grazing cannot be extended past September 13<sup>th</sup>, so producers who cannot begin grazing until August 2<sup>nd</sup> will only be allowed to graze through September 13<sup>th</sup>. Producers interested in grazing their CRP under the managed grazing provisions must obtain approval from FSA prior to beginning.

**Civil Rights/Discrimination Process**

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA, you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint.

The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Adjudication and Compliance within 180 days of the date you became aware the alleged discrimination occurred. To file a complaint of discrimination write: USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 326W, Whitten Building, Stop 9410, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

**Beware of Crop Insurance Rebating Schemes**

With the spring sales closing date for many Federal crop insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have stepped up their marketing efforts. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have been approaching producers with rebating offers. These schemes promise lower insurance premiums, refunds, dividends, or items of value tied to crop insurance purchases. Most of these activities are illegal. RMA is now coordinating with state regulators to take appropriate regulatory action against all those who are found to promote or participate in such schemes.

Producers who are found to participate in illegal rebating activities will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but will also lose eligibility in all USDA programs. Producers and agents can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: 1-800-424-9121.

**Disaster Assistance Programs Payments Issued**

Farm Service Agency Offices have begun to issue payments for eligible producers applying for benefits under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), and the Crop Disaster Program (CDP).

The Risk Management Agency has provided FSA with crop insurance information for the applicable years, but producers who suffered a crop loss during 2005, 2006, or 2007 and didn't receive a payment from crop insurance because they didn't meet the loss threshold should contact our office with the applicable information. Livestock producers who apply for the programs will also need to provide various documentation such as third-party beginning and ending inventory documents. For LIP, proof of sales and purchases that occurred throughout the applicable year will be required.

For detailed information on eligibility requirements for the three disaster assistance programs, contact your local county FSA Office.

**Make Sure Proper Signature Authorization is on File**

FSA reviews every producer's and entity's eligibility file to determine who is authorized to sign program documents in representative capacities and reviews all program documents to determine if the signature format is proper. For a complete listing of FSA signature requirements, contact the FSA office or logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> and click on the **Signature Authority Pamphlet** link under "In the News."

**Ensure Benefits Are Received in a Timely Manner**

To ensure USDA program benefits are received in a timely manner, please ensure you are consistent in the way you are presenting your operation to all USDA agencies including NRCS, Risk Management Agency (RMA), FSA and any other USDA agency programs you may participate in. For example, if you have signed up for program benefits with FSA as Joe Farmer, please sign up with NRCS as Joe Farmer. This will ensure Joe Farmer has completed all program paperwork and is eligible to receive payments. When in doubt, ask your county office.

Roosevelt County FSA Office  
P.O. Box 519  
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